

**N THE CLAIMS:**

**Claims 1 to 5** (Cancelled)

**Claim 6** (currently amended) An agent comprising the ~~monomer~~ protein of claim ~~13~~ 14 containing an effective amount of the ~~monomer~~ protein for preventing and treating a disease affecting bone and/or cartilage.

**Claim 7** (currently amended) The agent for ~~preventing and~~ treating a disease affecting bone and/or cartilage according to claim 6, wherein the disease is osteoporosis.

**Claim 8** (currently amended) The agent for ~~preventing and~~ treating a disease affecting bone and/or cartilage according to claim 6, wherein the disease is osteoarthritis or arthroseitis.

**Claim 9** (currently amended) The agent for ~~preventing and~~ treating a disease affecting bone and/or cartilage according to claim 6, wherein the disease is bone fracture.

**Claim 10** (currently amended) The agent for ~~preventing and~~ treating a disease affecting bone and/or cartilage according to claim 6, wherein the disease is a lack of root of teeth and a tooth socket.

**Claims 11 to 13** (cancelled).

**Claim 14** (currently amended) The MP52 protein ~~according to claim 13,~~ comprising an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 2 of the sequence listing.